

Appl. No. 09/589,414
Amendment of 18 June 2004
Reply to Office Action of 20 February 2004

Remarks

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 – 21, 24 – 30, and 40 – 46 are currently pending in the application. With this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 31. Applicants have also amended claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 19 – 21, and 24 – 30. Applicants have added new claims 40 – 46.

The Examiner issued a Final Office Action on 20 February 2004. However, the Office Action Summary delivered to Applicants indicated that the Office Action was "non-final." Applicants' representative therefore docketed appropriate due dates for responding to a non-final office action. Upon learning of the error on the Office Action Summary, Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner. The Examiner informed Applicants' representative that despite the error, the 20 February 2004 Office Action must be considered a Final Office Action. Applicants have therefore filed a Request for Continued Examination herewith in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

Currently pending claims 1, 4, 5, 8 – 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,353) (hereinafter "Herman") in view of Katsube, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,127) (hereinafter "Katsube"). Claims 13 – 21 and 24 – 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herman, in view of Katsube and Gregg, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,516,416) (hereinafter "Gregg").

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 19 – 21, 24 – 27, and 29 to specifically claim an embodiment of the present invention wherein network nodes register with specific information regarding the registering network node. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at pages 19, 21, 24 – 25. In addition, Applicants have amended independent claims 19 – 21, 24 – 27, and 29, and have

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added claims depending from claim 1 that specifically claim an embodiment of the present invention wherein, *inter alia*, session data is transmitted as part of an integrated signal comprising a plurality of component multi-media signals. This integrated signal is processed and distributed to respective user interfaces that make use of the component multimedia signals. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at pages 14 –17. The art cited by the Examiner, Herman, Katsube, and Gregg, fail to teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention as amended.

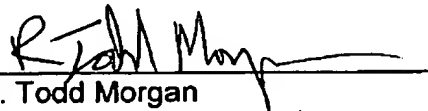
Furthermore, Applicants continue to maintain that both Herman and Gregg teach aspects of “secure” communications between computers connected to an unmanaged, public network (e.g., the Internet) that cannot be managed by a constituent node (such as a communications server) to create “reserved resources,” both Herman and Gregg teach away from the disclosed invention which is specifically directed to management of resources on a private, managed network. For this and other reasons, Applicants maintain that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine references such as Herman and Gregg with the teaching of a reference such as Katsube.

For the reasons stated above and in light of the foregoing amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 8 – 21, 24 – 30 and provide a notice of allowability for all currently pending claims 1, 4, 5, 8 – 21, 24 – 30, and 40 – 46.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


R. Todd Morgan
Reg. No. 43,815

R. Todd Morgan PLLC
103 Balsamwood Court
Cary, North Carolina 27513
(919) 388-4492
(919) 465-3192 (Fax)

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Date of Signature: 18 June 2004